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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/673,614	10/19/2000	Jean-Francois Grimaldi	Q61365	2115
7590	08/13/2002			
Sughrue Mion Zinn Macpeak & Seas 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20037-3213			EXAMINER	NGUYEN, PHUONGCHI T
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2833		

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/673,614

Applicant(s)

GRIMALDI ET AL.

Examiner

Phuongchi T Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 21, 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1, 3-8 and 10-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 9 is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some * c) None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:

1. received.

2. received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) _____.

3. received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

14) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 17) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

15) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 18) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

16) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 19) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant 's amendment of May 21,2002 is acknowledged. It is noted that claims 1 and 4 are amended; claim 2 is canceled.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 9 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because the connector of claim 9 depends on claim 5 AND any of claims 1 to 4. Multiple dependent claims must be in the alternative. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, ~~the~~ claim 9 cannot be further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(e) The invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bricaud et al (US6053776).

In regard to claim 1, Bricaud discloses a spring contact (44) for use in a connector, which spring contact (44) is substantially U-shaped and has two branches (82, 60) and a base (61) joining the first and second branches (82, 60) at one end for forming a U-shape, and wherein each of the first and second branches (82, 60) make electrical contact with a device (see Column 3, lines 16-20), characterized in that the first and second branches (82, 60) lie in two diverging

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planes (see figure 10). The intersection of the two planes is within the base (61) of the U-shape, and the first branch (82) and the base (66) are coplanar.

In regard to claim 3, Bricaud discloses the spring contact (44) characterized in that the electrical contact (44) of at least one branch (82) is at the free end (86) of the branch (82) (see figure 10).

In regard to claim 4, Bricaud discloses the spring contact (44) characterized in that one of the first and second branches (82) is adapted to come into contact with a printed circuit (16) and the other of the first and second branches (60) is adapted to come into contact with a battery; The shape of the contacts allows contact with theses devices. They are therefore seen to be adapted to do so.

In regard to claim 5, Bricaud further discloses an electrical connector (40) comprising a first face (46) and a second face (48) opposite the first face (46), and at least one housing (52) for receiving a spring contact (44) and opening onto both of the first and second faces (46, 48), wherein the spring contact (44) is positioned in the housing so that a plane containing a base (61) of the U-shape is substantially parallel to the respective planes of the faces (46, 48) of the connector (40) (see figures 15-17).

In regard to claim 6, Bricaud discloses the connector (40) further comprising a guide (98) to guide the spring contact (44) into position in the housing (see figure 4).

In regard to claim 7, Bricaud discloses the connector (40) further comprising a retainer for retaining the spring contact (44) in the housing (see figure 4).

In regard to claim 8, Bricaud discloses the connector characterized in that one branch (60) of the spring contact (44) projects from the housing (see figure 15).

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In regard to claim 10, Bricaud discloses the connector characterized in that one face (46, 48) of the connector (44) has a pick-up area (hole) substantially at the center of said face (46, 48) (see figure 2).

In regard to claim 11, Bricaud discloses the connector having lateral faces (92) joining the first and second faces (46, 48), characterized in that the lateral faces (92) include at least one recess (54) and a free end (62) of one branch (60) of the spring contact (44) projects into the recess (54) (see figure 5).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PhuongChi Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0729. The examiner can normally be reach on Monday through Thursday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Austin Bradley, can be reached on (703)308-2319. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 306-3900.

August 9, 2002.



RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER